

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 70, 71, and 76 through 82 and add Claims 83 through 95 as follows:

1-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating with a camera through a communication system, the camera being controllable from each of a plurality of control apparatuses coupled to the communication system, said apparatus comprising:

a connecting device adapted to connect the ~~communicating~~ communication system; and

a control device adapted to inhibit others of ~~said the~~ plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera when one of ~~said the~~ plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the communication system.

71. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein ~~said the~~ control apparatus controls each of a plurality of cameras through ~~said the~~ communication system.

72. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a designation device adapted to designate a desired image on a screen of a display device.

73. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

74. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein said control device releases the other control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

75. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display a time at which the control of the camera is inhibited.

76. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display that ~~said~~ the one of said plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera, ~~in case of that~~ when the control of the camera is inhibited.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a camera coupled to a communication system having a plurality of control apparatuses, wherein the camera is controllable by each of ~~said~~ the plurality of control apparatuses, said method comprising the steps of:

~~a step of~~ controlling the camera through the communication system with one of the plurality of control apparatuses; and

~~a step of~~ inhibiting the others of ~~said the~~ plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the communication system when the camera is controlled by ~~said the~~ one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the communication system.

78. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 77, wherein a plurality of cameras are coupled to the communication system, and wherein said ~~step of~~ controlling step comprises ~~the a~~ step of controlling the plurality of cameras, through ~~said the~~ communications system, by the one of the plurality of control apparatuses.

79. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 77, further comprising ~~the a~~ step of displaying a plurality of images on the screen, and ~~the a~~ step of designating one of the images displayed on the screen.

80. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 77, wherein said inhibiting step comprises ~~the a~~ step of inhibiting ~~said the~~ others of ~~said the~~ plurality of control apparatuses from controlling ~~said the~~ camera for a predetermined period of time.

81. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 80, further comprising ~~the a~~ step of releasing ~~said the~~ others of ~~said the~~ plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling ~~said the~~ camera after ~~said the~~ predetermined period of time has lapsed.

82. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~80~~ 77, further comprising ~~the~~ a step of displaying an indication that the camera is controlled by ~~said the~~ one of the plurality of control apparatus, to the control apparatus which is inhibited from controlling the camera apparatuses in a case of that where the control of the camera is inhibited.

83. (New) A method according to Claim 80, further comprising a step of displaying the predetermined period of time.

84. (New) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a communication device adapted to communicate with a plurality of control apparatuses through a network; and

a control device adapted to inhibit others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network.

85. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 84, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

86. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 85, wherein said control device releases the another control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

87. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 84, wherein the plurality of control apparatuses can control at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network.

88. (New) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

communicating with a plurality of control apparatuses thorough a network;

and

inhibiting others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that the camera is controlled by one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the network.

89. (New) A method according to Claim 88, wherein said inhibiting step comprises a step of inhibiting the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

90. (New) A method according to Claim 89, further comprising a step of releasing the others of the plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

91. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 88, wherein the plurality of control apparatuses can control at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network.

92. (New) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a control device adapted to inhibit others of a plurality of control apparatuses from controlling at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through a network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network; and

a communication device adapted to communicate with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result by said control device.

93. (New) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

inhibiting others of a plurality of control apparatuses from controlling at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through a network in a case that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls at least one of vertical pan, horizontal pan, and zoom of the camera through the network; and

communicating with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result in said inhibiting step.

94. (New) An apparatus for controlling a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a judging device adapted to judge whether one of a plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through a network;

a control device adapted to inhibit others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that said judging device judges that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network; and

a communication device adapted to communicate with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result by said control device.

95. (New) A method of controlling a camera, said method comprising the steps of:

judging whether one of a plurality of control apparatuses controls a camera through a network;

inhibiting others of the plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the network in a case that said judging step judges that one of the plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera through the network; and

communicating with the plurality of control apparatuses through the network, based on a control result in said inhibiting step.